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December 13, 2012

To the Citizens of Weare:

Over the years as budget requests have been reviewed one of the most scrutinized lines has been Police Department overtime. This expense has risen steadily since the department began providing 24 hour coverage several years ago. The Selectmen have generally been supportive of the overtime expense, believing that it was necessary in order to provide around the clock coverage.

In the spring of 2012 the Board of Selectmen contracted with Municipal Resources Incorporated (MRI) to study these overtime expenses and to make recommendations on how to stabilize or lower the costs. The report has been in draft form for some time, but has now been finalized and is available on the town website. Several hard copies of the report are available in the Selectmen's office and may be borrowed by those who do not have access to the website.

It is the intention of the Board to work with the Chief of Police to incorporate as many of the recommendations in the report into practice as possible. It should be noted that one section of the report deals with the canine program and suggests that the program is too expensive for a small department such as Weare's. The Board of selectmen has already acted on this recommendation, terminating the program in the fall of 2012.

Sincerely,

Thomas S. Clow, Chairman Weare Board of Selectmen

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